



Minneapolis

City of Lakes

CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AUTHORITY

FIRST QUARTER REPORT

2012

Table of Contents

List of Tables	2
Introduction.....	3
Section I 2012 Statistics.....	4
Section II Complaint Data Discussion	5
Complaints	5
Allegations.....	6
Location of Complaints.....	6
Complainants	6
Mediation	6
Board Activity	6
Section III Results of Sustained Allegations Forwarded to MPD	8
Section IV Other Information.....	8
Social Media.....	8
Appendix A: Ward and Precinct Map	9

List of Tables

Table 1 Complaint Data.....	4
Table 2 Board Data – Disposition of Complaints.....	7

Introduction

The Minneapolis Civilian Police Review Authority (CRA) is responsible for receiving, investigating, mediating, and adjudicating civilian complaints against Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) officers. This report will provide information about citizen complaints involving the actions of MPD officers. This report will present data from the first quarter of 2012. It should be noted that the data contained in this report is a snapshot of the data at the end of the quarter. This report does not include data from the MPD Internal Affairs Unit or the lawsuits filed against MPD officers.

The report is divided into four sections. Section I will provide CRA data collected from January through March 2012. Section II will discuss select complaint data for closer examination. Section III will discuss the results of sustained allegations forwarded to the chief of police in the fourth quarter. Section IV will provide additional information related to the CRA operation.

Section I 2012 Statistics

The table below provides CRA data related to the number of civilian contacts, the demographics of the civilian contacts, and the allegations contained in complaints from the first quarter of 2012.

Table 1 Complaint Data

Minneapolis Civilian Police Review Authority 2012	
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1. Number of initial complaints received	93
2. Number of complaints sent for signature	10
3. Number of signed complaints received	10
4. Number of complaints withdrawn	0
5. Percentage of complaints containing multiple allegations	80%
6. Total number of allegations by type	
• Inappropriate Conduct	9
• Inappropriate Language	10
• Harassment	5
• Excessive Force	4
• Failure to Provide Adequate or Timely Police Protection	0
• Discrimination	0
• Failure to Report Use of Force	0
• Retaliation	0
• Theft	0
7. Location of complaints by precinct (See map, Appendix A)	
• Precinct 1	3
• Precinct 2	1
• Precinct 3	1
• Precinct 4	2
• Precinct 5	3
• Outside City	0
8. Location of complaint by ward (See map, Appendix A)	
• Ward 1	1
• Ward 2	0
• Ward 3	1
• Ward 4	1
• Ward 5	0
• Ward 6	3
• Ward 7	3
• Ward 8	0
• Ward 9	1
• Ward 10	0
• Ward 11	0
• Ward 12	0
• Ward 13	0

Minneapolis Civilian Police Review Authority 2012	
	1Q
9. Race of Complainants (includes victims) ¹	
• Asian	0
• Black	7
• Latino	0
• American Indian	1
• Unknown	0
• White	4
10. Age of Complainants	
• Under 21	2
• 21 – 40	6
• Over 40	3
• Unknown	1
11. Gender of Complainants	
• Female	5
• Male	7
12. Race of Officer involved in complaint	
• Asian	0
• Black	0
• Latino	0
• American Indian	0
• White	11
13. Officer's Time on Force (seniority of officer involved in complaint)	
• Less than 5 years	1
• 5 or more years	10

Section II Complaint Data Discussion

Complaints

Staff closed 62% of the initial complaints received during intake in the first quarter, which is a decrease in initial complaints closures as compared to the fourth quarter of 2011 (69%). This reduction is attributed to the division's focus on closing out the remaining 2009 complaints and investigating priority complaints.

Ten percent of the initial complaints resulted in a complaint for signature. A complaint for signature is a complaint that (after initial screening by CRA staff) is sent for a Complainant signature because the alleged actions by a police officer may have violated MPD policy and procedures.

¹ Because the CRA ordinance allows any person with personal knowledge to file a complaint, the term "victim" is used to describe the individual who experienced the police action contained in the complaint.

The CRA received ten signed complaints, which is less than the number of complaints received during the same period last year (22). Two of the complaints received during the first quarter qualified for priority complaint processing. Priority complaint processing is a method used to identify those complaints that meet certain factors, such as the seriousness of the allegation, past history of the involved officer, or high sustainability factors. Complaints selected for priority investigation are placed on a 90-day investigation plan.

Allegations

Excessive force allegations against MPD officers accounted for 14% of the complaint allegations filed during the first quarter of 2012, an increase from 10%, which were received last quarter.

Location of Complaints

The majority of the first quarter complaints involved incidents that occurred in the First Precinct and Fifth Precinct and Ward 6 and Ward 7. Complaints from the downtown business district accounted for 30% of the complaints filed during the first quarter, which is a decrease from the 41% of complaints from the downtown area that were received last quarter.

Complainants

There has been no change in the demographic distribution of people who file the majority of complaints against Minneapolis police officers. During the first quarter, blacks filed 58% of the complaints, which is a higher percentage of the complaints filed by blacks during the fourth quarter of 2011(52%).

Mediation

Two complaints were referred to mediation in the first quarter. Both complaints were successfully mediated.

Three complaints referred to mediation in the fourth quarter of 2011 were held this quarter. One was successful and two were unsuccessful and were returned to investigation.

Board Activity

The CRA board consists of 11 board members appointed by the Mayor and the City Council to four-year terms. Members must be residents of Minneapolis and cannot be current or former employees of the MPD. Board members are responsible for conducting hearings and determining the facts of complaints, making policy recommendations to the MPD, holding monthly public

meetings, and participating in community outreach. Public meetings and community outreach are essential to the board's ability to receive comments from the public concerning the relations between the public and the MPD and to explain the agency's role in addressing police misconduct. The board's authorization to determine the facts of a complaint provides the citizens of Minneapolis the opportunity to be intimately involved in police accountability. Moreover, the board members, through their hearing panel decisions, policy review and recommendations, review of the chief's actions related to the CRA complaints, and outreach are in a position to affect behavior changes in the community and the MPD.

Once CRA staff completes a complaint investigation, the complaint is sent to the CRA board to schedule a hearing. Board hearings are conducted to adjudicate the complaints. The board conducted hearings on 18 complaints during the first quarter of 2012, of which 16 reached a determination.

Table 2 Board Data – Disposition of Complaints

Disposition of Complaints	1 Q
• Number of complaints heard by panel	18
○ Number of complaints fully sustained	0
○ Number of complaints partially sustained	0
○ Number of complaints not sustained	9
○ Number of complaints dismissed ²	10
○ Number of complaints determination pending	2
• Number of allegations contained in complaints heard	
○ Number of allegations sustained	0
○ Number of allegations not sustained	44
○ Number of allegations dismissed ²	39
• Types of allegations sustained - None	
○ Inappropriate conduct	0
○ Inappropriate language	0
○ Harassment	0
○ Excessive force	0
○ Failure to provide adequate or timely police protection	0
○ Discrimination	0
○ Failure to report use of force	0
○ Retaliation	0

² Includes complaints dismissed by CRA manager 172.85.(b)

Section III Results of Sustained Allegations Forwarded to MPD

The CRA ordinance provides that the chief can make one of four decisions on a sustained complaint as determined by the CRA board:

- (1) Impose discipline and notify the review authority in writing that discipline has been imposed; or
- (2) Determine that no discipline will be imposed and notify the review authority in writing of such determination and the reasons for such determination; or
- (3) Make a one time written request that the review authority reconsider the sustained finding; or
- (4) Submit in writing to the review authority a request for an extension of time, not to exceed an additional thirty (30) days, to take one of the actions in subparagraphs (1) through (3) with a statement of the reason for the extension and a proposed date by which one of such actions will be taken.

During the first quarter, the chief made the following decision on 28 sustained allegations (6 complaints) which had been sent from the CRA to the chief for action

3 allegations – 10 hour suspension

14 allegations – no discipline, reckoning period

11 allegations – no discipline, preponderance of evidence does not exist

Of the three complaints where no discipline was imposed, reasons given for no discipline were:

- Reckoning Period: The complaint is considered to be too old for corrective action/discipline.
- Difference in evaluation of officer's actions as determined by the CRA board.

One MPD decision pending at the end of the first quarter was beyond 30 days.

Section IV Other Information

Social Media

The CRA can be found on the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights Facebook page and WordPress. See links below.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CivilRightsMinneapolis>

Appendix A: Ward and Precinct Map

